

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Richard LaCava on 1/30/09.

The application has been amended as follows:

1. (Currently amended) A transmission line connecting structure comprising: a plurality of connected transmission lines, each of the transmission lines including a dielectric substrate, an electrode formed on a first side of the dielectric substrate, and a first slot having a predetermined width and formed in the electrode; wherein the electrode of a first transmission line of the plurality of connected transmission lines and the electrode of a second transmission line of the plurality of connected transmission lines are positioned at a distance from one another to form a gap therebetween; wherein a respective resonator is connected to each of the plurality of connected transmission lines so as to be able to couple with one another, one end of each respective resonator being open on a side thereof facing the gap; wherein at least one stub for suppressing leakage of a first signal in the gap is provided in at least one of the electrodes of the plurality of connected transmission lines; and wherein, when the wavelength of a second signal in odd mode which propagates the plurality of connected

transmission lines is λg_{odd} , a length of the stub is approximately $\lambda g_{\text{odd}}/4$, and a length between the respective resonator and the stub is smaller than $\lambda g_{\text{odd}}/2$.

3. (Currently amended) A transmission line connecting structure comprising: a plurality of connected transmission lines, each of the transmission line including a dielectric substrate, an electrode formed on a first side of the dielectric substrate, and a first slot having a predetermined width and formed in the electrode, wherein the electrode of a first transmission line of the plurality of connected transmission lines and the electrode of a second transmission line of the plurality of connected transmission lines are positioned at a distance from one another to form a gap therebetween; wherein a respective resonator is connected to each of the plurality of connected transmission lines so as to be able to couple with one another, one end of each respective resonator being open on a side thereof facing the gap; wherein at least one stub for suppressing leakage of a first signal in the gap is provided in at least one of the electrodes of the plurality of connected transmission lines; and wherein when the wavelength of a second signal in odd mode which propagates the plurality of connected transmission lines is λg_{odd} , a length of the stub is approximately $\lambda g_{\text{odd}}/4$, and a length between the respective resonator and the stub is approximately $\lambda g_{\text{odd}}/2$.

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: With regards to the independent claims, the prior art of record does not disclose the specific circuit configuration with emphasis on the stub.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably

accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to KIMBERLY E. GLENN whose telephone number is (571)272-1761. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday 7:30 to 4:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Robert Pascal can be reached on (571)-272-1769. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

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